

# Sunday Schools Are Now Making Their Plans For Christmas Celebrations

## Rehearsals and Drills Are In Progress; Programs Arranged

Cantatas, Playlets, Christmas Trees Are in Store For the Little Folk on Christmas Eve or the Following Day; First Presbyterian Children Will Adhere to the Custom of Bringing Presents For the Poor; Playlet Will Depict Children of the World Celebrating Christmas.

CHRISTMAS, the great children's day, is being planned for by the Sunday schools of the city and rehearsals and drills are already in progress for the annual celebration of the great natal day which is less than three weeks away. Cantatas, Christmas trees, playlets and regular Christmas programs are being arranged for the entertainment of the children and their parents on the eve of Christmas or on Christmas night. This celebration, with all of its beautiful surroundings and sentiment, has come to be recognized as the climax of the year's Sunday school work, and the elaborate entertainments which are being planned are a reward of merit for the little folk who have attended Sunday school regularly during the year. The celebration of Christmas by the children of the city is especially appropriate, for, as the birthday anniversary of the Christ child, it ranks first in the church calendar of childhood.

At the First Presbyterian church the Sunday school will present the play, "The World's Christmas Tree." In this play the children of the world as they celebrate Christmas will be shown by the Sunday school pupils. Pictures of the Holy Land will be shown with a lantern and, carrying out an old established custom, the children will bring presents for the poor children who will not be fortunate enough to have a visit from Santa Claus.

Mrs. C. L. Overstreet, missionary superintendent, is giving monthly talks on subjects relating to missions on the last Sunday in each month which has been designated as Missionary Sunday; the collection on this day is given to missions.

W. Van Long, who recently took charge of the intermediate and junior departments has under way a series of very interesting illustrated exercises at the closing period of his department touching upon the Bible history, geography and characters of the time covered by the lessons of the various grades.

About 50 members of Mrs. Overstreet's primary department are now well able to read and they will make demands on their parents for copies of the Bible as Christmas presents; it is expected that this department will have a strong voice in the reading of the Scriptures at the general exercises.

Visitors to the school gravitate to the beginners' department in the basement where the little tots between the ages of three and six congregate; they are directed by Mrs. C. A. Harle.

Work Among Mountaineers. Mrs. Alexander Boyce, on the last Sunday in December, will tell the

school of her work among the mountaineers of the Cumberland plateau in Tennessee. For several years Mrs. Boyce was a teacher in a large mountain school in this section conducted by the American Missionary association. The winter attendance at this school was over 400 most of whom were above the age of 20. The school is located about seven miles from the railway. In the fall after the mountain crops are gathered the natives leave their homes in the caves miles away and move into cabins near the school where their children may have the advantage of attending this school.

Regular Attendance, 305. The regular session attendance at the First Presbyterian Sunday school is 305, the enrollment of the home department is 75, the cradle roll numbers 62, making a total of 440. The average attendance is 215.

List of Officers and Teachers. The list of officers of this Sunday school is:

Superintendent, L. L. Robinson; Intermediate and Junior, W. Van Long; Primary, Mrs. C. L. Overstreet. Department superintendents: Beginners, Mrs. C. A. Harle; home, Miss Kate Pink; cradle roll, Mrs. D. C. Huntington; missionary, Mrs. C. L. Overstreet.

Secretary and treasurer, Herbert Hunter; assistant secretaries, E. A. Shelton and Dr. L. M. Breck; pianist, Mrs. S. A. Frey.

Teachers: adult classes, A. G. Foster, Mrs. Lizzie Alvrett and Mrs. Hell Hale; Philanthropy class, Mrs. Henry Bowie and Mrs. H. B. Durkee; Baraca class, H. B. Durkee.

Intermediate, Mrs. W. Van Long; Primary, Mrs. C. L. Overstreet.

Primary, Mrs. W. C. Dunlap, Mrs. S. A. Frey, Miss Willie McCrery, Miss Mary K. Henry, Miss Mary Duden, Miss Marie Schwartz, substitutes, Miss Helen Ellis and Mrs. Frank D. Dow.

Beginners: Mrs. L. M. Breck, Mrs. F. B. Eilers, Mrs. N. Grosche, and Miss Mary Alice Jones; pianist, Mrs. F. B. Gullin.

Flags for the Children. All children of the East El Paso Presbyterian Sunday school who are on time, know the Golden Text, and have a contribution receive a reward each Sunday in the form of a small flag of some missionary country.

Many children are trying to secure the entire set of 12 flags. Most of the children of the Sunday school attend both church services and prayer meeting.

This Sunday school expects to have a Christmas tree and Christmas en-

## "THE SAVING Power of the Son of God Adds to the Church Daily the Saved"

It Is Not Our Preaching; Not Our Praying; Not Our Good Works, But the Spirit of Christ Working on the Hearts of Men.

REV. ED. L. MILLICAN, Pastor of the East El Paso Baptist Church.

Text, Acts 2:47—The Lord added to them day by day those that were being saved.

I WANT us to notice first to whom the Lord added "those that were being saved." It was unto the first church that Christ organized. It was unto the 11 whom he commanded in his last message on earth to tarry at Jerusalem until they be endued with power from on high—Luke 24:49.

It was the living ascended Christ that was present with the little band of 120 workers who waited at Jerusalem for the power of the Holy Ghost. On another occasion Jesus, speaking to the disciples, as we find in John 14:16: "I will pray the Father and he will give you another comforter. And when the days of Pentecost were fully come he carried out his promise to them."

Jesus had spoken to Peter, in Matt. 16:17-19, that he would build his church and give Peter the keys to the kingdom.

We find in Acts 2:14-27 the first demonstration of Peter having the keys, as he preaches with boldness and power the gospel of the ascended Christ that made men and women to repent of their sins and trust Jesus to save them.

Most Powerful of Sermons. Not our preaching, not our praying, not our singing, not our good works, but it is by the saving power of the son of God that we are permitted to add to the church.

God may use these as a weapon in His hand, but the hand that wields the weapon gives the power. Christ says that "no man cometh unto me except the Father draws him. Now how hard it is some times to keep self down, to keep big I or big we out of the question. So often it is big I and little Christ."

We are found saying that we had so many conversions, instead of saying God saved so many in His service today. Christ, the founder of his church, works through us at his agents, but the work is accomplished through the power of the holy spirit, both in community work and the building up of his churches.

In the Spirit of Christ Working. It is the spirit of Christ that worketh upon the hearts and minds of men that cause them to repent of sin and to trust the Lord to save them.

It is Christ who adds to the church those that are saved. When the Lord, on the day of Pentecost, added to the

"The Messiah," written by Geo. Rosche. The music is specially fine and the whole subject matter is very tasteful and beautiful. Mrs. K. C. Copenhagen, Mrs. W. H. Lorens and Miss Alta Craig are assisting in drilling the young people in their parts.

Planning for Christmas. The East El Paso Methodist church Sunday school is making preparations for the observance of Christmas and the Epworth League and the church will assist in this entertainment.

The monthly meeting of the Mizpah class of the Grandview Baptist Sunday school will be held at the home of Mrs. Stella McBride on Tuesday at 7:30 p. m.

Studying the Life of Christ. The main Sunday school of the church of St. Clement is studying the life of Christ and his preparation for his ministry in the Bible class, the book of Numbers is being studied. The primary department is doing ex-

cellent work. Mrs. C. C. Crews is in charge, assisted by Mrs. Lamar Davis and Miss Edna Wellborn.

Trinity on the Upgrade. Trinity Methodist Sunday school is very much on the upgrade. Every department is organized and classes are growing rapidly. Last Sunday the attendance reached high water mark.

The following figures will show the school in excellent condition. Present enrollment, 184; attendance last Sunday, 402; teachers present, 29; teachers absent, 3; collection, \$14.16.

The orchestra of the Calvary-Houston square Baptist church is one of the very attractive features of the Sunday school and interests the young people of the church who are musically inclined. The orchestra plays for the evening service, and the B. Y. P. U. meetings. The members are: Harriett Sotterff, pianist; Taisy Brown, director; V. D. Scott, first violin; A. Smith

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church, he laid the foundation of an ideal Christian church, that it should be continually gathering into its fellowship those that are being saved. That was the fundamental thought of our Lord when he established his work upon the earth.

How is this to be done? How is the Lord to add to our church, brethren. He will add to our churches in the same way that he did on the day of Pentecost.

Church of One Mind. "Christ added to the church day by day." There were two reasons that the large number of people were saved and added to the church that day.

First, the church was of one mind, of one accord in one place, standing steadfast, waiting the fulfillment of the promise of the ascended master.

They believed the Lord and were expecting him to carry out his promise unto them. And when the power of the Holy Ghost came upon them, they were endued with power from above.

It was not any trouble to persuade people that the one they had crucified on calvary and had buried in Joseph's tomb, was risen and had ascended to the heavenly father and that he had kept his promise and sent the power of the Holy Ghost upon them. They did not have to tell people that they were children of the Lord, no, the people knew it; their lives illustrated Peter's preaching.

Brothers, that is what we need today is practicable religion. The pastor may preach Christ as a loving savior and the church not live it and they will destroy the larger part of the influence of that the pastor has brought to bear upon the minds of the people.

O, to God that this will be a real church of Christ, standing together, ever living in such close, earnestness to the Lord that they will be expecting of the Lord a great outpouring of the Holy ghost upon his church. So let us lay hold on the hope set before us, and run with patience the race that we might lead some one out of the dark ways of life to see the glory of our Saviour and be saved.

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## Whole Roman Rota To Act On The Gould-Castellane Divorce

Upon the Decision of Church Body Will Depend the Fate of Many Couples in Germany; New Plans of Congregationalists Mean Progress For Church.

THE Roman Rota, the supreme judicial body of the Catholic church, has just resumed business for the year, and is to call to its bench its entire body, numbering 12 of the highest prelates in the church. These come together to hear the appeal of the Gould-Castellane divorce case. This case has been twice before the Rota, with conflicting decisions, hence the call for the full number. The importance of the case, from the Vatican point of view, is not wholly the prominence of the principals, but the fact that from Germany come a number of cases not unlike the Gould case.

Count Boni is expected in Rome from Paris within a few days now. Earlier in the contents he denied his reported desire to marry another rich American, but now it is known that he openly admits it. Many hold that the sole purpose, or nearly the only one, had in mind by the princess de Sagan, formerly Miss Gould, is to prevent her former husband from remarriage. This is held to be the view of many of the Rota prelates. The princess alleged that she had never been served with papers in the second appeal before the Rota, but the Archbishop of Paris has promptly denied this statement, saying she dodged service for a time, but was finally caught and duly subpoenaed. The case is held by the Vatican at Rome to be one of the most important of recent times.

JOINT CAMPAIGN FOR FUNDS. FURNISHES INTERESTING FACTS. Features of the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. \$4,900,000 campaign in New York, just ended, were some that will prove instructive for other cities. A difficulty was that of finding New York men of wealth. To an extent not obtaining, it is said, in other cities, New York men were absent—in Europe, in South America, on the Pacific coast, everywhere, and within the limited fortnight it was impossible to get into touch with many of them. Some Jews of moderate means did so. Precisely the opposite rule obtained among Roman Catholics. Of men and women of wealth among them none save but a large number of small gifts came from Catholics of the middle financial class.

While three of the four millions were for buildings for women, and while four or five of the canvassers were women, the largest and most numerous gifts came from men. In the ratio of fully four in five. This is unusual, at least it is contrary to the popular notion. Finally, 80 to 85 per cent of the money was subscribed by people who support the Protestant

churches of New York. These are hardly a fifth of the population. There is a vast body, as in other cities, who do not give to the churches or any other uplift force. They are not Jews or Catholics, but are nominal Protestants. With five thousand zealous and persistent canvassers, many of them experienced and all of them directed, it had been expected that some of them would have made inroads upon the very large proportion of the population not supporting and not attending churches. Such was not the case. The list of 10,000 contributors is practically a list of that number of church and mission supporters of New York.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL PLANS. MEAN NEW LIFE FOR THE CHURCH. Everywhere is heard talk of the new Congregationalism, new plans for work, new efficiency methods, new churches, for a church extension society in fact if not in name is a part of the new progress, and new life. The permanent National Council committee has already met, and is to do so again on January 6. Some who seem as well informed as any predict that an early step will be provision for a publication society, somewhat on the lines of the Methodist Book concern, in aim if not in business methods.

There is on foot a plan to federate all education work, whether now in a society bearing that name or not. Indeed, the American Missionary association, one of the societies attracted, has already a committee working to that end. Finally, it is said the home mission agencies will be brought together, and that the present Home Missionary society, one of the oldest in service and largest in achievement in America, will become a federative body of Congregational state societies. In fact, Congregationalists, leaders in missions and education, are remaking their entire benevolent machinery.

A new secretary for Social Service, formerly a Brotherhood agent, with the National Council behind him, puts this religious body in the fore in social work. Removal of headquarters has been made from Chicago to Boston, where it is to be as is logical, the center for these new national agencies. Not in many years has everything Congregational been so harmonious, hopeful and vigorous.

PAULIST FATHERS TO BUILD. A NEW HOUSE FOR STUDIES. Paulist Fathers were the first of the religious societies to affiliate with the Catholic university at Brookland, Washington, and to provide a house of studies near that institution. Too poor at first to buy a site, they leased one from the university. Now they have just purchased a site adjoining that of the university consisting of 24 acres of land at a cost of \$101,000. A bequest of \$50,000 enabled them to do so. They are at once to enter upon the erection of a new house of studies, much larger than the present Apostolic Mission house.

This year Paulists have, at their

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